and seized for violation of the law. There were 603 ongoing cases, *i.e.* 196 cases are for non-registration of the centre/clinic, 153 cases relate to non-maintenance of records, 123 cases relate to communication of sex of foetus, 37 cases relate to Advertisement about pre-natal/conception diagnostic facilities and 94 cases relate to other violations of Act/Rules.

The Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 is a Central Act. It extends the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal, Sex Selection/Determination (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 2002, (Act No.XXXI of 2002) on 23rd April 2002. Therefore States are not required to notify the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

Setting up of heavy industrial plant in Marathwada

2101. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has realized the necessity and importance of establishing heavy industries in backward regions like Marathwada in view of developing them by way of generating employment;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plan to start a heavy industrial plant in Marathwada region where industrialists dare not venture to invest money in a heavy industry; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations, which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Governments in creating a conducive environment by way of providing infrastructural facilities and other incentives. The Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible by providing support/incentives under its various schemes. There is no proposal for setting up of heavy industrial plant in Marathwada at present.

Subject under ambit of Panchayats

2102. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the 29 subjects for which the Panchayats are responsible for under the Eleventh Schedule have actually been devolved to the Panchayats;

(b) if so, whether the envisaged targets have been fulfilled as the financial and administrative powers are still controlled by the higher tiers of Government; and

(c) whether the extant procedures and rustic wisdom of Sarpanches and Panches is adequate to deal with all the 29 subjects?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) According to the provisions of the Article 243G of the Constitution, the State Governments may endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to plan and implement schemes for social justice and economic development. The State Governments are accordingly to consider the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule for devolution to the Panchayats. The number of subjects devolved to the Panchayats varies across the States/UTs.

(c) The elected representative of the Panchayats are provided training and capacity building under various schemes of the State and Central Governments to exercise powers and functions assigned to the Panchayats.

Production in KG-D6

†2103. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of production in Krishna- Godavari-D6 oil reserve has been entrusted to a joint enterprise;

(b) if so, names of partners in the Joint Venture alongwith the percentage of partnership of each partner, separately;

(c) whether the investments made till now in these oil reserves have been estimated finally; and

(d) if so, the total investments made so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The KG-D6 block has been awarded to a Consortium consisting of Reliance Industries Limited and Niko Resources Limited with 90% and 10% of Participating interest respectively under the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-I).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG) is conducting the audit of this Block for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 with the option to take up the audit of earlier years.

Auction under NELP

2104. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many blocks have been auctioned in the eight rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) of these, in how many blocks oil and gas have been discovered and the block-wise estimates; and

(c) of these, in how many blocks exploration has started?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.